

# Searle's goal decides Floodlight League 'crunch' game

## TWO TO GO, BUT WANDERERS HOME AND DRY IN SECTION B

Wycombe Wanderers 1  
Maidenhead United 0

MAIDENHEAD UTD'S late bid to snatch the Section B title faltered once and for all in Tuesday evening's crunch game with reigning Premier Floodlight League champions, Wycombe Wanderers at Loakes Park.

Wycombe, who have looked set since the beginning to head their eight-strong group, still had two games in store before completing their programme. But they entertain Wealdstone next Wednesday and then visit Chesham United with the comforting knowledge that a place in the semi-finals is already assured.

They now just wait to hear

which club heads Section A, before booking their coach for the trip between them and the final.

Maidenhead travelled to Wycombe realising that victory, and nothing less, was essential if they were to keep an interest in the competition. Yet, on a damp night lacking atmosphere despite a crowd of over 1,100, there was very little to raise the blood pressure of anyone — whether Wycombe or Maidenhead.

Indeed the deciding goal and

the action which led to it, rated as one of the precious few moments of magic in 90 mundane minutes, for the most part, devoid of the urgency associated with such a vital fixture.

Fittingly it came about through Johnny Hutchinson, whose welcome zest and industry on the wings couldn't help but stand out under the circumstances.

"Hutch" worked his route around two defenders on the left flank before centring to top

striker Keith Searle, standing neatly positioned inside the Magpies' box to head the ball under keeper Spittle's body after 40 minutes.

The second period, won territorially by the visitors, gave ample scope for the Wycombe defence to convince onlookers that its balance and cohesion had improved on recent displays. But it also showed the lack of penetration Maidenhead carried upfront.

With allied counties strikers Mick Chatterton and Brian

Woozley joining centre forward Terry Fancett more punch been expected of them. Ins it was left to Woozley, recently made a success debut for Berks and Bucks offer their first shot at the h goal and that came as lat the 35th minute, and way beam.

Even after the interval, w pressing for much of the t they managed few convin goal attempts, and those leaked through were countably.

Each of the rivals fie relatively strong cross sect of their playing strei although Wanderers had to without Olympic men Pov Fuschillo and Pritchard.

United included for Wanderer Dave Thomas — sound influence in their deft — and Jim Hartridge, brother Wycombe's Les and domineering centre half had Keith Searle tamed who came to aerial combat.

Wycombe in fact had to tent themselves with second in the air but still persisted employing the high ball.

The Isthmians, backed by 0 victory at York Road ea in the season, went stra after the double and took first half honours. T recorded a near miss Hutchinson tried to finish o Tony Horseman's cross in first minute.

### BLOCKED

Spittle blocked a Horse effort at point blank range a 7 minutes and Iain MacL tried to catch the opposition with a typical long range that went wide but near eno to worry them.

After making the goal Searle, Hutchinson went a one for himself, but sho before and again after half ti he shot wide across goal mis by inches each time.

M.W

WYCOMBE WANDERERS:  
O'Brien; I. MacLean, C. Gale Rundle, J. Delaney, V. Faulk B. Bremer, B. Baker, K. Searle Horseman, J. Hutchinson. Subs: Blunt (not used).

MAIDENHEAD UNITED:  
Spittle; B. Pitts, D. Thomas; Montague, J. Hartridge, D. Un wood, B. Woozley, M. Scott, Fancett, M. Chatterton, P. Ho Sub.: P. Stonel (not used).

Referee: J. Griffiths (Oxford).

Official paying attendance: 1,

Goalscorer: Wycombe — Se (40).